



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White Mountain National Forest
Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset
Ranger District

Route 175, RFD #3, Box 15
Plymouth, NH 03264
Comm: (603) 536-1315
TTY: (603) 536-3281

File Code: 1950

Date: April 9, 2003

Dear Interested Party,

I am writing to invite your comments on the proposed 2003 Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Project. The purpose of this project is to improve species diversity and the quality of growing stock on 323 acres of young stands over the next 3 years (see enclosed map).

Proposed TSI Treatment Areas

Area	Comp.*	St.**	Acres
1	2	26	14
2	3	54	20
3	6	4, 7, 10, 24	40
4	10	59	5
5	11	7, 25, 31	38
6	12	6, 8, 9, 20	47
7	15	13, 23	48
8	20	27, 32	19
9	28	59	9
10	29	29, 31, 38	41
11	34	40	28
12	150	73	7
13	157	2	7
Total			323

*Compartment ** Stand

The proposed project would use three criteria to identify individual young trees to be released from adjacent, competing trees.

1. **Minority species** - those that are native and common to the area but are not well represented in the stand such as white pine, basswood, black ash, or red pine or a more common tree such as yellow birch, white ash or sugar maple that is not well represented in the stand stocking;
2. **Trees of interest for wildlife habitat** - those that could provide thermal cover such as red spruce or hemlock or provide mast such as red oak; or
3. **Quality stems of high-value timber species** - those that need to be released from adjacent, fast growing but low quality stump sprouts such as pin cherry or striped maple.

Over time, treated stands will become a better mixture of desirable trees. Forest Service employees using chain saws over a 3-year period would accomplish the work. The stands considered for treatment are 8 to 15 years old. Stocking surveys have been completed and indicate that it would be desirable to do this work before the stands get older and the desirable trees are eliminated or suppressed by the competition.

The release work would be done only when a tree meeting one of the three criteria is identified. Two possible methods could be used to accomplish this work. One method would require cutting all competing trees in a fixed, eight-foot area around each tree to be released. The other method would be to cut only those trees in direct competition for sunlight around the trees to be released. I prefer the latter method, because the personnel doing the work are highly skilled and could minimize the total number of trees being cut and still accomplish the treatment

objectives.

I have identified no adverse affects or extraordinary circumstances associated with this work. A project file is available at the Pemigewasset Ranger Station or you can get more detailed information by calling Steve Wingate at the district office, 603-536-1315 (or by e-mail, swingate@fs.fed.us, e-mail comments are appreciated). I anticipate making a decision within May and would appreciate any input you may have prior to April 25, 2003.

If you decide to comment, your comments need to be submitted to me, the Responsible Official, as indicated above, and you must include the following information:

- Your name, address, and, if possible, telephone number. If you submit E-mail comments, please include your postal address and phone number;
- The title of the project you are submitting comments on; and
- Site-specific facts or comments. Comments should directly address the activities proposed for the 2003 Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Project.

For example, "TSI in stand X is inappropriate, because it does not meet Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for MA 2.1" or "TSI in stand X does not meet the stated purpose and need of this project" are site-specific comments.

"Timber management is inappropriate on National Forest land," is not a site-specific comment. Such a comment is beyond the scope of individual projects and should be addressed at the national level.

Comments received in response to this solicitation will become a matter of public record.

Copies of the resulting decision will be mailed to people who have submitted comments prior to the close of the comment period, and to people who have requested a copy.

Thank you for taking the time to comment. Your views on this project are important to us.

Sincerely,

/s/ John J. Serfass

JOHN J. SERFASS

District Ranger

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. However, those who submit such comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36CFR215. Additionally, pursuant to 7CFR1.27(d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the submission will be returned, and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

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Map

2003 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI) PROJECT SCOPING RESPONSE

☐ I would like to receive further documentation on this project.

I wish to receive future documents in the following format:

☐ E-mail ☐ CD ☐ Off of the White Mountain National Forest website

☐ By post – my address is: _____ Phone #: (____) ____-_____

Comments On The 2003 Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Project:

[illegible]

Signed _____

**Ammonoosuc-Pemigewasset Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
RFD #3, Box 15
Plymouth, NH 03264-9103**

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Attn: Steve Wingate